



Family News

October/November 2003

News and Information for Families of individuals at Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital during the transition to community-based services.

Indiana's Chronic Disease Management Program Wins National Vision Award

Indiana's Chronic Disease Management Program has drawn national acclaim as a visionary approach to helping people manage chronic conditions like asthma, diabetes and heart disease. The program's creators -- Medicaid Director Melanie Bella and State Health Commissioner Dr. Gregory Wilson -- recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept the Vision Award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's office of Improving Chronic Illness Care (ICIC.)

The Indiana Chronic Disease Management Program is a joint effort of the state's Family and Social Services

"Helping people improve their health and manage their conditions is one of the most important things we can do to improve and enhance the Medicaid system," said Melanie Bella, Medicaid Director.

Administration, which manages Medicaid, and the Indiana State Department of Health. The program, which began on July 1, allows nurse care managers to work directly with Medicaid participants, providing a personalized plan to help them improve their

health.

Medicaid is the state-federal health care program for low-income children and families, seniors and people with severe

(Continued on page 3)

Governor Kernan Appoints Cheryl Sullivan as FSSA Secretary

Governor Joe Kernan has chosen Cheryl Sullivan of Indianapolis to be the new Secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.



Sullivan, who served as the head of FSSA under former Governor Evan Bayh, comes to FSSA from her former post as vice chancellor for External Affairs at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. In that position, she was the liaison between the IUPUI campus and its constituencies in federal, state and local government, business and industry.

Prior to her appointment by Gov. Bayh, Sullivan was the bureau director of Family Health Services within the Indiana State Department of Health. Her background also includes experience at the Riley Child Development Center at the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis and the Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities, Indiana University-Bloomington.

"Obviously, Cheryl's credentials speak for themselves," said Kernan. "We need someone with her expertise - her in-depth knowledge of the agency, the federal and state programs it administers, and the people it serves - and I am so pleased that

(Continued on page 3)

Federal Mental Health Chief Backs Indiana's Direction

*Focus on recovery and treatment
options is an important investment,
Curie says*

The nation's top mental health official told state leaders and advocates that Indiana's mental health system is on the right track toward investing in recovery and treatment options for people with mental illness.

Charles G. Curie, administrator of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), was the featured speaker at the Indiana Mental Health and Addiction Summit.

Curie trumpeted the recently released report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, which said the nation's mental health system is fragmented and must be transformed with more focus on recovery and outcomes. Curie, a Hoosier native, said Indiana is already working to address those issues and praised his native state for working to create more services for people in their communities, remove barriers to effective treatment and reduce the stigma of mental illness.

"We were honored to have Mr. Curie join us as our featured speaker as we collaborate with consumers, advocates, service providers and other stakeholders to transform Indiana's mental health and addiction services," said Suzanne Finneran Clifford, DMHA director. "SAMHSA is the lead federal agency for improving the quality and availability of mental health services, substance abuse prevention and addiction treatment in the United States. Mr. Curie's visit gives us an added boost as we improve mental health services and

treatment options that have effective and proven outcomes."

Curie's visit focused on the report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health and its central themes to facilitate recovery, build resilience and promote a life in the community for all Americans living with mental illness.

"This report challenges us to identify better ways to work together at the federal, state and local levels to leverage our human and economic resources and put them to their best use for children and adults living with - or at risk for -- mental illnesses," Curie said. "Most of all, the report reminds us that mental illness is a treatable illness and that recovery is possible. As a compassionate nation, we cannot afford to lose the opportunity to offer hope to those people fighting for their lives to obtain and sustain recovery."

"DMHA has the momentum, dedication, drive, and partnerships necessary to effectively transform Indiana's mental health and addiction system," stated Clifford.

Conference for People with Disabilities To Focus on Community

The 2003 Indiana Conference for People with Disabilities is Dec. 2nd and 3rd at the Westin hotel in downtown Indianapolis. The Conference will feature workshops on political strategies, housing, self-employment, the Help America Vote Act, faith-based initiatives, inclusive education, positive behavioral support, creating inclusive communities, and more. For more information and a registration form contact the Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities by:

Telephone: 317-232-7770,
E-mail: GPCPD@GPCPD.ORG or
Internet: <http://www.in.gov/gpcpd/>

(New FSSA Secretary announced, continued from page 1)

she has agreed to take the reins at FSSA.”

While secretary of FSSA between 1993 and 1997, Sullivan led the development of Indiana’s welfare reform project, which

She also has experience in transitioning men and women with mental illness and developmental disabilities from state facilities to community-based care

reduced the number of families on public assistance by 30 percent, saving taxpayers over \$143 million. She also has experience in transitioning men and women with mental illness and developmental

disabilities from state facilities to community-based care, as well as restructuring the state Medicaid program.

“Governor Kernan and I are committed to serving Indiana’s most vulnerable populations compassionately and effectively. At the same time, we are mindful that we are accountable to the taxpayers of Indiana for the resources they have entrusted to us,” said Sullivan.

Sullivan received a bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Maryland, and a master’s in Environmental Science from Indiana University. She has also completed the State and Local Program for Senior Executives at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Sullivan began her duties at FSSA on Oct. 20.

The FSSA is the state’s largest agency, serving hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers every day through the Division of Family and Children; Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitation Services; Division of Mental Health and Addiction; and the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning.

(Indiana’s Chronic Disease Mgt., continued from page 1)

disabilities. About 50,000 enrollees are expected to participate in the chronic disease management program.

While the program is still relatively new, the health of some patients has already improved, Bella said. She said patients and the Medicaid system should continue to see even more results in the coming months and years as the program spreads across the state.

“Helping people improve their health and manage their conditions is one of the most important things we can do to improve and enhance the Medicaid system,” Bella said. “Ultimately, Medicaid recipients will need fewer services, which will help us meet rising health care needs. Most importantly, they’ll be healthier and their quality of life will improve.”

Said Dr. Wilson: “Our health care system was developed to handle acute health care problems, not chronic illness. Yet chronic illness is the leading cause of death in Indiana. This program gives us the tools to organize care in a way that makes sense for those who provide it and for those who receive it.”

Dr. Ed Wagner, executive director of ICIC, said Indiana’s program “stands out as a way out of the current health care maze” and noted that “Dr. Wilson and Melanie Bella are leading the way in Indiana and other states are watching closely.”





Keep In Mind

Indiana Protection & Advocacy Services

317-722-5555 or

1-800-622-4845

Div. of Disability, Aging & Rehab
Services:

800-545-7763

Div. of Mental Health & Addiction:

800-901-1133

MSDC/MSH Info Hot Line:

800-903-9822

Ombudsman: **800-622-4484**

Inside This Issue

- Conference for People with Disabilities
- Federal Mental Health Chief Backs Indiana's Direction
- Governor Kernan Appoints New FSSA Secretary
- Indiana's Chronic Disease Management Program Wins National Award

Future Issues

- ◆ Resources
- ◆ Your Ideas

"..we will never forget that this government belongs to all of us. It is our challenge -- together -- to make the torch flame burn brightly. And to light the way for a brighter future for all our families."

*excerpt from former Governor
O'Bannon's 1997 Inaugural Address*

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